GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1181
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007
COMPLAINTS ON DOWRY BY NRIs
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) have complained against the misuse of Section 498A of the Dowry Prevention Act by Police;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether out of 58000 cases filed under the prevention of the Dowry Act, 25000 were found to be fake;

(d) whether a website 498.org has also been established to make a case against the provision; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the law more balanced and objective?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO H. GAVIT)

(a) to (c): Section 498-A is a section of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and not the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. As per statistics compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the number of cases registered under Section 498-A of the IPC during the 2005 were 58319.

However, information in respect of complaints received from NRIs is not compiled separately.

(d): The Government has no information in this regard.

(e): The Government has been receiving representations from various quarters for amending Section 498-A of the IPC. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003 had, inter alia, a proposal to make Section 498-A of the IPC compoundable, but the same was dropped by the Government on the request of Women's organizations, to retain the effectiveness of this legal provision.